What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical agent comprising a carrier moiety and a therapeutically active peptide species, wherein the peptide is in the form aa_n, where n is the number of amino acid residues in the peptide.

2. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein the carrier moiety comprises an aryl or alkyl group of sufficient length or steric bulk to protect the active peptide species from enzymatic degradation *in vivo*.

3. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 2, wherein the carrier is selected from a group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl, 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, *t*-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, pivaloyl, N-9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, and fumaroyl.

4. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein The carrier moiety is chemically linked to a therapeutically active peptide species of the general formula aa_n, where n is an integer from 2 to 40.

5. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally.

6. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 4, wherein n is an integer from 3 to 6.

7. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 6, wherein n is 5.

8. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 4, wherein the therapeutically active peptide species comprises Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met.

9. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein the agent further comprises a linker species linking the peptide to the carrier moiety.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises the steps of adding a polypeptide moiety X_n, where $n = 1 - 3$, at one end of the polypeptide drug substance, and where a terminal amino acid of the polypeptide

moiety is selected from the group consisting of Pro, Met and Arg, and adding a protecting moiety to the opposite end of the polypeptide drug substance.

11. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 9, wherein the linker species is selected from the group consisting of a natural peptide, a pseudo-peptide, and a peptide mimic, each member of the group comprising 4 or fewer residues.

12. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 11, wherein the linker species is directly bound to the carrier.

13. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 11, wherein the linker species is bound to the carrier through a $-C_6$ or $-C_8$ acidic moiety.

14. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 9, wherein the linker species is Gly-carba-Gly, a pseudo-peptide.

15. The pharmaceutical agent of claim 14, wherein the linker species is associated with a $-C_n$ chain, where n is an integer from 6 to 8.

16. A pharmaceutical composition for administration to a patient in need thereof comprising the pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the composition is formulated for parenteral administration.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the composition is formulated for intravenous administration.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the composition releases a biologically active form of the pharmaceutical agent into the patient's system at physiologically effective levels over a period of time of up to twelve hours.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the composition releases a biologically active form of the pharmaceutical agent into the patient's system at physiologically effective levels over a period of time of up to twenty-four hours.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18, wherein the peptide species is an epitope or an immune sequence characteristic of an infectious, viral or cancerous disease.

23. A method for the treatment of a physiological condition through administration of a therapeutically effective species comprising the steps of chemically linking a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid, and where *n* is an integer from 2 to 40, to an alkyl or aryl carrier moiety to form a pro-drug, and administering the pro-drug to a patient exhibiting the physiological condition.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the carrier moiety is selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl, 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, pivaloyl, N-9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, and fumaroyl

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the pro-drug is administered orally or parenterally.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a linker species.